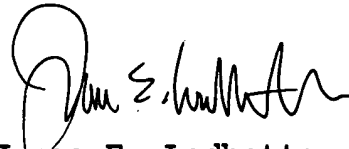


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 10 and 11 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. New claims 16 and 17 are added to recapture the subject matter in the amended claims.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: September 5, 2006

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L9289.06170

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
Suite 850  
1615 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 785-0100  
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200